# Frequently Asked Questions (SUSMP, Hydromod & LID)

1) *Why do I have to use BMPs, LID, and hydromodification management practices for my project?*
   - In January 2007, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board reissued a municipal Stormwater NPDES permits to the San Diego Area municipal Copermittees. The reissued permit updates and expands stormwater requirements for new developments and redevelopments, including requirements for LID, BMPs, and HMP. Web link to this Order: http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/permit_r9-2007-0001.pdf

2) *Who does the permit apply to?*
   - This NPDES permit applies to all Copermittee dischargers (i.e. the County for unincorporated areas and the municipalities for incorporated areas), who own or operate a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), that discharges urban runoff into waters of the United States within the San Diego Region. .

**BMP (Best Management Practices)**

3) *What is a BMP?*
   - Any procedure or device designed to prevent or minimize the quantity of pollutants that enter the storm drain system.

4) *What are the different types of BMPs that might be required for my project?*
   - Site Design: A project design feature that reduces the amount of impervious surfaces, disconnects impervious surfaces, reduces creation or severity of potential pollutant sources and/or reduces the alteration of the project site's natural flow regime.
   - LID BMPs: An intergrated site design methodology that uses small-scale detention and retention to mimic pre-existing site hydrological conditions. LID BMPs are often referred to as Integrated Management Practices, or IMPs.
   - Source Control: Structural or nonstructural measures that reduce the potential for pollution at the source, such as roof structures over trash or material storage areas, and berms around fuel dispensing areas. …
   - Treatment Control BMP: Any engineered system designed and constructed to remove pollutants from runoff.

5) *Where can I get more information?*
   - County of San Diego's Watershed Protection Homepage: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds.html/

**Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP)**

6) *Where can I find the most current SUSMP documents (e.g. Major SWMP, Minor SWMP)?*
   - County of San Diego's SUSMP page: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmp.html

7) *Will there be a change to this document in the future?*
   - Yes, the Model SUSMP will be the template for this change: http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/susmp/final_updated_model_susmp_2009.pdf

8) *What would be the earliest date that the County's local SUSMP will be updated to incorporate the Model SUSMP?*
   - The Regional Water Quality Control Board accepted the Copermittee's Model SUSMP in March 2009. The County (and all of the other municipalities) are required to update their local SUSMPs and start enforcing new requirements by March 2010.

9) *Will my project be grandfathered from changing Stormwater documents and regulations?*
   - Private project may be grandfathered if they meet these general guidelines;
     - ✓ If your project has a prior lawful approval (such as a development agreement, vested tentative map, or a building or grading permit) or has started construction before the stormwater document implementation date. Please verify with your County DPW project manager who will confirm with County Counsel.

**Hydromodification**

*10) What is Hydromodification?*
   - The change in the natural hydrologic processes and runoff characteristics (i.e. interception, infiltration, overland flow, interflow and groundwater flow) caused by urbanization or other land use changes that result in increased stream flows and changes in sediment transport. In addition, alteration of stream and river channels, installation of dams and water impoundments, and excessive streambank and shoreline erosion are also considered hydromodification, due to their disruption of natural watershed hydrologic processes.

*11) Why should I be concerned about hydromodification?*
   - Hydromodification is one of the leading sources of impairment in streams, lakes, estuaries, aquifers, and other waterbodies in the United States. Hydromodification not only changes a waterbody's physical structure, it also changes its natural function. These changes can cause problems such as changes in flow, increased sedimentation, higher water temperature, lower dissolved oxygen, degradation of aquatic habitat structure, loss of fish and other aquatic populations, and decreased water quality. It is important to properly

manage hydromodification activities to reduce nonpoint source pollution in surface and ground water.

*12) What is hydromodification management?*

- It is the management of post-project runoff flows and durations to the levels of the pre-project condition. .

*13) Where can I find County of San Diego guidance information?*

- FAQ's regarding the interim Hydromodification Plan (HMP): http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/susmp/hydromod_qanda_ma08.pdf
- What are the current Minimal Submittal requirements for an HMP? http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/susmp/hmp_minimum_criteria_10-2008.pdf
- Where can I find additional information regarding HMP? http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/wq_susmp.html

**Low Impact Development (LID)**

*14) What is LID?*

- An integrated site design methodology that uses small-scale detention and retention (Integrated Management Practices, or Integrated Management Plans) to mimic pre-existing site hydrological conditions.

*15) What are some of the types?*

- A landscaped area or a grassy swale receiving sheet flow from adjacent parking lot, driveway or a road.
- A bioretention facility that receives runoff, filters it through plant roots and a biologically active soil mix, and then infiltrates it into the ground.
- A parking lot surfaced by permeable pavement.
- Any natural filtering media of soil and vegetation strategically located between a pollution generating development and receiving water body.
- A planter area receiving rooftop runoff.
- A Dry Well which is a prefabricated structure such as an open-bottomed vault or box used mainly in areas where infiltration basins are not feasible due to land use or availability.
- A cistern is an above-ground storage used where space is limited and placed in series with a bioretention facility and together can meet the treatment requirements.

*16) Where can I get more information?*

- County of San Diego's LID Handbook: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/procguid.html#hydro
- Countywide Model SUSMP: http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/susmp/final_updated_model_susmp_2009.pdf
- Low Impact Development Center: http://lowimpactdevelopment.org/bigbox/
- City of Portland, OR. 2004 Stormwater Management Manual: http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=35122

**Treatment Control BMP**

*17) What is a Treatment Control BMP?*

- Any engineered system designed and constructed to remove pollutants from urban runoff. Pollutant removal is achieved by simple gravity settling of particulate pollutants, filtration, biological uptake, media adsorption or any other physical, biological, or chemical process.

*18) What are some types of Treatment Control BMPs?*

- Biofilters, Detention Basins, Infiltration Facilities, Wet Ponds and Wetlands, Filtration Systems, Hydrodynamic Separation Systems, Trash Racks and Screens.

*19) Where can I get more information?*

- County of San Diego's SUSMP: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmp.html
- Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook : http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/oppd/stormwtr/Final-PPDG_Master_Document-6-04-07.pdf
- California Stormwater Quality New Development Handbook: http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/Development.asp

**Storm Water Management Plan (SMWP)**

*20) What is a SWMP?*

- A process to address stormwater quality at the earliest stage of the project application process, which includes detailing post-construction BMPs early in the design process, construction BMPs, and the implementation of a long-term post- construction maintenance program. A key element of the process is the selection of BMPs.

*21) What is the SWMP intake form?*

- A one-sheet form that determines if your project is a "Priority Development Project" which will determine whether or not Major or Minor SWMP form should be completed. The SWMP intake form is found at: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmppdf/susmp_appendix_b.pdf

*22) What is the difference between a Major SWMP and a Minor SWMP?*

- A Priority Development Project requires a Major SWMP; all other projects require a Minor SWMP. A Major SWMP project requires measures that satisfy section D.1.d of the County of San Diego's MS4 permit (see Page 17 of this Order at: http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/permit_r9-2007-0001.pdf). A Minor SWMP details the requirements of a project that is not considered a Priority Development Project.

*23) What is a Priority Development Project?*

- In addition to the list provided in the Order as mentioned above, the SUSMP also has the various categories of Priority Development Project.

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmppdf/susmp_manual.pdf

*24) How can I get the most current SWMP forms?*

- The most current Major and Minor SWMP forms can be found at this link:

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmp.html

**Drainage Design Manual - County of San Diego**

*25) Is it available on-line?*

- YES, here is the link:

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/floodcontrol/floodcontrolpdf/drainage-designmanual05.pdf

**Hydrology Manual - County of San Diego**

*26) Is it available on-line?*

- YES, here is the link:

http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/floodcontrol/floodcontrolpdf/hydro-hydrologymanual.pdf

Your (applicant or engineer's) suggestions – Where can I send my suggestions or comments to?
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